

Application No. 10/783,371
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE PENDING CLAIM SET

The Examiner indicated on the Office Action Summary Sheet that claims 1-19 are pending in the application, and the Examiner has addressed claims 1-19 on the merits.

It is respectfully pointed out, however, that claims 5-7 and 17-19 were canceled in the Amendment filed on November 3, 2005, and that claims 14-16 were canceled in the Supplemental Amendment filed on November 4, 2005.

In addition, claims 20-22 were added in the Amendment filed on November 3, 2005.

Thus, as of the issuance of the Office Action, the pending claims were 1-4, 8-13 and 20-22.

In view of the addition of claim 23 in this Amendment, the pending claims are now 1-4, 8-13 and 20-23.

THE CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Independent claims 1 and 13 have been amended to clarify that the message displayed by the display is a "displayed message" which is stored in the memory (that is, which is one of the at least one message(s) stored in the memory), and claims 2,

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3, 9 and 10 have been amended to better accord with amended independent claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1 and 13 and claims 2-4 and 8-10 depending from claim 1 are all in full compliance with the requirements of 35 USC 112, and it is respectfully requested that the rejection thereunder be withdrawn.

In addition, it is noted that claims 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 USC 112 for the same reason as claims 1 and 13. However, it is respectfully pointed out that claims 11 and 12 do not recite "at least one message." Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the grounds for rejecting claims 11 and 12 set forth in item 2 of the Office Action are not proper. Nevertheless, claims 11 and 12 have been amended to more clearly distinguish between the "first message" and the "help message." Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 11 and 12 under 35 USC 112 also be withdrawn.

Still further, new claim 23 has been added to more broadly recite the subject matter of independent claim 22.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to claims 1-3 and 9-13 and the addition of claim 23 be approved and entered.

It is respectfully submitted, moreover, that the amendments to claims 1-3 and 9-13 are not related to patentability, and do

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not narrow the scope of these claims either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 6,222,539 ("Watts").

It is respectfully pointed out, however, that this prior art rejection does not reflect the amendments to the claims set forth in the Amendment filed on November 3, 2005, and also does not reflect the cancellation of claims 14-16 as set forth in the Supplemental Amendment filed on November 4, 2005. Indeed, the prior art rejection appears to be a mere reproduction of the prior art rejection set forth in the Office Action dated August 3, 2005.

In addition, it is noted that the Examiner indicates on page 8 of the Office Action that "[t]he claims remain rejected until the indefiniteness is resolved." It is respectfully pointed out, however, that claims 20-22 were neither rejected under 35 USC 112, nor otherwise acted upon in the Office Action.

In view of the foregoing amendments to claims 1-3 and 9-13 to resolve the rejection under 35 USC 112, it is respectfully requested that pending claims 1-4, 8-13 and 20-23 now be examined on the merits in view of the arguments for patentability

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submitted in the Amendment filed on November 3, 2005, which are also applicable to new independent claim 23.

In short, it is again respectfully pointed out that according to Watts, when toner is running low in a printer a message indicating that toner is low is displayed. In addition, in Watts, a question mark is displayed next to the low toner message to indicate that help is available, and when help is available, a help mode can be entered to display and scroll through a help message.

It is respectfully submitted, however, that Watts merely discloses indicating that detailed help is available for a particular problem. And it is respectfully submitted that Watts does not disclose, teach or suggest displaying a help message when the question mark is not displayed (i.e., when no detailed help is available).

By contrast, according to the present invention as recited in new independent claim 23, for example: (i) if the help key is operated while a message is displayed on the display screen that corresponds detailed information stored in the memory, the display screen is caused to display the detailed information as the help message; and (ii) if the help key is operated while a message is displayed on the display screen that does not correspond to any detailed information stored in the memory, the display screen is caused to display detailed information

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concerning a setting window, which is used for setting at least one condition for formation of an image, as the help message.

Thus, according to the present invention as recited in new independent claim 23, if help (detailed) information is available for a message that is displayed when the help key is operated, then the help (detailed) information is displayed. And if, on the other hand, no help (detailed) information is available that corresponds to the message that is displayed when the help key is operated, detailed information concerning a setting window (which is used for setting at least one condition for formation of an image) is displayed as the help message.

Accordingly, according to the present invention as recited in new independent claim 23, a help message is displayed whether or not detailed information is available for the message displayed on the screen. If the detailed information is available, then the detailed information is the help message. But if the detailed message is not available, then the help message corresponds to the setting window.

It is respectfully submitted that Watts, which merely discloses identifying that help information is available, does not at all disclose, teach or suggest this feature of the present invention as recited in new independent claim 23.

As explained in the Amendment filed on November 3, 2005, with the structure of the present invention as recited in each of

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independent claims 1, 11-13 and 20-22 it is possible to display a different help message to more accurately help a user in accordance whether or not the identification information is displayed, whether or not a message stating that image formation can not be started is displayed, whether or not a message for an operation command is displayed, or whether or not details of the message are stored in a memory.

Thus, as explained in the Amendment filed on November 3, 2005, according to the claimed present invention, it is possible to provide an image forming apparatus which can conveniently display the detailed message required by the user without performing troublesome operations such as, for example, selecting an item of the message which is desired by a user to display as a help message.

It is respectfully submitted that Watts clearly does not disclose, teach or suggest the features of the present invention as recited in each of independent claims 1, 11-13 and 20-22 whereby when a help key is operated, a help message is displayed that is either detailed help information relating to a displayed message or help information relating to a setting window for setting at least one condition for formation of an image.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in each of independent claims 1 and 11-13 and 20-23, as well as each of claims 2-4 and 8-10

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depending from claim 1, clearly patentably distinguishes over
Watts, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the
passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or
recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the
undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt
action.

Respectfully submitted,


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